

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A security tag assembly structured to discourage the unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said security tag comprising:

- a) a housing including separable portions removably connected to one another in an operative position,
- b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing and structured to connect the merchandise to said housing,
- c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure said separable portions of said housing in said operative position, and
- d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of indicator structures disposed ~~in generally surrounding relation to said connector member~~ and structured to be engaged and thereafter indicate tampering upon attempted unauthorized

perimeter access to said connector member[.], and

e) a shield assembly formed of a heat resistant material
and disposed within said housing in at least partially enclosing
relation to said locking assembly.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (original) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said shield assembly is disposed and configured to restrict access to said locking assembly through an exterior of said housing.

Claim 4 (original) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said locking assembly is at least partially mounted on one of said separable portions of said housing.

Claim 5 (original) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 4 wherein said connector member is attached to a different one of said separable portions of said housing relative to said locking assembly.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) A security tag assembly as recited in claim [[8]]1 wherein at least one of said plurality of indicator structures comprises a breakable ink ampule containing a releasable staining agent.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said plurality of indicator structures comprise three breakable ink ampules, each containing a releasable staining agent and disposed in generally surrounding relation to said connector member.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A security tag assembly structured to discourage the unauthorized removal of merchandise from a

given area, said security tag comprising:

- a) a housing including separable portions removably connected to one another in an operative position,
- b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing and structured to connect the merchandise to said housing,
- c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure said separable portions of said housing in said operative position,
- d) an indicator assembly comprising interior housing section having an exterior curved surface and including a plurality of indicator structures disposed in one of said separable portions interconnected thereto, and
- e) an interior said exterior curved surface of said separable portion containing said indicator structures being interior housing section being disposed and structured to direct an article inserted between said separable portions into indicating engagement with at least one of said indicator structures.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 12 wherein said interior exterior curved surface is sloped towards said connector member.

Claim 14 (original) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said indicator structures comprise breakable ink ampules.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said interior exterior curved surface is ~~sloped upwardly relative to said separable portion containing said indicator structures so as disposed and dimensioned to recess into an interior of an opposite one of said separable portions.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended) A security tag assembly structured to discourage the unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said security tag comprising:

- a) a housing including separable portions removably connected to one another in an operative position,
- b) a connector member secured to an interior of said

housing and structured to connect the merchandise to said housing,

c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure said separable portions of said housing in said operative position;

d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of breakable ink ampules, and

e) ~~a mounting retainer disposed in one of said separable portions and structured to retain said ink ampules said connector member and a perimeter of said separable portions such that an article disposed between said separable portions towards said connector member at a radial location of one of said ink ampules will engage said ink ampule[.]~~

e) an interior housing section having an exterior curved surface and including a mounting retainer connected thereto,

f) said mounting retainer disposed and structured to retain said indicator assembly substantially adjacent corresponding peripheries of said separable portions, and

g) said exterior curved surface disposed in communicating relation with said corresponding peripheries and being

configured to direct an article passing through said corresponding peripheries into engagement with said indicator assembly.

Claim 17 (original) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said ink ampules are disposed in a generally triangular orientation so as to generally surround said connector member.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A security tag assembly structured to discourage the unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said security tag comprising:

- a) a housing including separable portions removably connected to one another in an operative position,
- b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing and structured to connect the merchandise to said housing,
- c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure said separable portions of said housing in said operative position, and
- d) an interior surface of one of said separable portions

housing section having an exterior curved surface disposed and structured to protrude from said separable portion so as to extend into an interior of an opposite one of said separable portions and restrict perpendicular access to said connector member by an article inserted between said separable portions[.]], and

e) said exterior curved surface disposed to restrict radial access of an article between said separable portions.

Claim 19 (New) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 18 wherein said exterior curved surface extends over at least a majority of an outer surface of said interior housing section.

Claim 20 (new) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said exterior curved surface is substantially convex.

Claim 21 (new) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said separable portions comprise substantially corresponding peripheries and an interior housing section, said interior housing section comprising an exterior curved surface positioned adjacent said common peripheries and disposed and

configured to restrict perpendicular access to said connector member by an article inserted through said corresponding peripheries.

Claim 22 (new) A security tag assembly as recited in claim 21 wherein said exterior curved surface extends over at least a majority of an outer surface area of said interior housing section.